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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, Your law is a lamp, and Your teachings illuminate our path. Help us to honor Your name.

Lord, You know every heart and provide a shield for those who have reverence for You. Today may our Senators find treasures in Your wisdom that will enable them to be responsible stewards of their noble calling. As they remember their accountability to You, empower them to live for Your glory. O God, our ruler, let Your glory be seen in our Nation and world.

Lord, we ask Your blessings upon Senator JEFFREY CHIESA as he takes his oath today.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks the Senate will resume the motion to proceed to S. 744, the immigration bill. That will take place until 5 p.m. today. Senator SESSIONS will control 2 hours, and Senator LEAHY will control the remaining time today. Senator-designate CHIESA will

be sworn in today as a U.S. Senator at 4:30 p.m. At 5 p.m. the Senate will resume consideration of the farm bill. At 5:30 p.m. there will be a vote on passage of that bill. Following that vote, we will resume the motion to proceed to the immigration bill. There will be a cloture vote on the motion to proceed at 2:15 tomorrow afternoon.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1121 AND H.R. 126

Mr. REID. There are two bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bills by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1121) to stop the National Security Agency from spying on citizens of the United States and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 126) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement to provide for management of the free-roaming wild horses in and around the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings with respect to these two bills.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bills will be placed on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, for most of her life Anna Ledesma has been afraid. She was a model student at Centennial High School in Las Vegas, an artist and a member of the Key Club. As one of the top academics of a large high school, she received the Millennium Scholarship to study nursing at the College of Southern Nevada. Now she is studying hard for her nursing exams. But 23-year-old Anna has lived for a long time with the constant fear that she will be deported. She is an undocumented immigrant. She was born in the Philippines and brought here by

her parents when she was 7 years old. She was in the second grade.

This is what Anna told the Las Vegas Sun newspaper:

I would tell myself that they're not going to deport me because I'm a nursing student and I'm working really hard and I want to make a difference in my community . . . [But] all the time, constantly in the back of my head, I think about being deported and having to start over.

Thanks to a directive issued last year by President Obama, Anna and 800,000 other young people like her—young people who are American in all but paperwork—won't be deported. President Obama's directive suspended deportation of DREAMers—students brought to America illegally when they were children. These young people share our language, they share our culture, and they share our love for America, which in most cases is the only country they have ever known. Like Anna, the DREAMers are talented, patriotic young men and women who want to defend our Nation in the military, get a college education, and work hard to help their communities and our country.

Still, the Republican majority in the House of Representatives sent a chilling message last week to Anna and others when it voted to roll back President Obama's directive. Republicans voted to resume deportation of upstanding young people—I repeat, just like Anna—who were brought to this country illegally through no fault of their own. That is why it is vital that Congress act at long last to fix this Nation's broken immigration system.

President Obama's directive is temporary—and squarely in the crosshairs of the tea party-driven Republican rightwing. The directive is also no remedy for more than 10 million others—many of whom are the parents or siblings of DREAMers—who are living here without the proper paperwork.

But a permanent commonsense solution to our dysfunctional system is in sight. The bipartisan legislation on

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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